

Faculty of Humanities, Utrecht University

Full Professor in *Gender Studies*

1. General

The Faculty of Humanities at Utrecht University has a vacancy for a full professor in Gender Studies (1.0 FTE). The chair will play a key role in the development of teaching and fundamental research in feminist and critical theory on diversity and inclusion in relation to contemporary societal and institutional transformations.

Within the Faculty, the chair will be expected to assume a prominent role in the Department of Media and Culture Studies, contributing to the shared strategic vision and mission, and strengthening its position within both academic and societal debates. For this, the department invites the chair to develop of new research initiatives and encourages a committed effort to attract external funding from Dutch and/or European funding schemes to support these initiatives.

The chair also plays a leading role in the further development of gender studies education and research in the context of Utrecht University's interdisciplinary strategic themes (Institutions for Open Societies, Dynamics of Youth, and Pathways to Sustainability). In particular, the chair will play a leading role in Institutions for Open Societies' Diversity & Inclusion and Inequality platforms. As such, the new chair in Gender Studies contributes to the realisation of the department's, the Faculty's, and Utrecht University's [strategic plans](#) with respect to teaching, research, and public engagement or outreach.

The Faculty of Humanities is committed to supporting our staff with a variety of backgrounds, skills, and views, and to foster various forms of interdisciplinary collaboration. The new chair will be positioned in the Department of Media and Culture Studies (MCW). In our department, a wide range of media as well as cultural and artistic expressions are studied, also in their intermedial relations. Beside gender studies and postcolonial studies, we also provide education and research in the fields of screen media, new media & digital culture, critical data studies, game studies, communication & information studies, performance studies, musicology, and of arts & society. We interpret culture as a dynamic combination of everyday, artistic, creative activities that people use to shape their identities, and within which social processes, structures and institutions are shaped.

2. The Research Field and Profile of the Chair

Taking a central position in contemporary scholarly and public and debates about diversity and inclusion in contemporary society, the chair of Gender Studies is responsible for the development of teaching and fundamental research in feminist cultural and critical theory, and political philosophy, with a specific focus on the conceptualisation of cultural transformations. Such a humanities perspective is very urgently needed, because political and social mechanisms of inclusion and exclusion based on (intersections of) gender, ethnicity, class, race, religion, and sexual orientation play a key role in contemporary societies and their frictions, challenges, and transformations. Moreover, the pursuit of inclusiveness requires fundamental and critical theory research in order to bring to light

and make possible change of structural, intersectional, and global aspects of inequality. As such, a critical humanities perspective on gender is productive for stakeholders and institutions with an ambition and dedication to fight societal injustice and inequality. This is how a critical as well as societally-engaged humanities has a direct impact on the current global political constellations and contributes to the production of socially-just systemic and institutional transformation. In that sense, this chair marks an important contribution to not only the [UU Strategic Plan](#), but also to one of the major challenges of the 21st century as described in the UN's Sustainable Development Goals.

The chair will guide these developments in both the international academic and societal fields from a critical gender studies perspective focused on transformation. Through fundamental research in the development of feminist (i.e., gender, critical race, and queer studies) and cultural theory, the chair will focus on the analysis of existing structural inequalities and develop innovative frameworks for possible change. By researching how 21st century societal institutions can foster inclusiveness in a globalised world, the chair will focus on societal issues and challenges which are also central to the Institutions for Open Societies strategic theme of Utrecht University. Within this framework of Institutions for Open Societies, the guiding question for this chair will be: How can we acquire knowledge about others and how does this knowledge resonate with an inclusive, ethical standpoint, that takes a variety of differences into consideration, especially with regard to gender, race, and sexual orientation, in the national and global transformations in culture and society?

3. International and National Positioning

Internationally, chairs in critical cultural theory and intersectional gender research can be found in the US, UK, Sweden, Australia, Canada, and Germany. Chairs that take an approach to gender research from a critical theory and philosophical perspective and with a specific focus on the cultural, institutional, legal and behavioural causes of inequalities impeding inclusion, diversity, and transformation are, however, rare. In the Netherlands, some chairs in related fields address similar questions, but take different approaches or are not active in gender studies research and teaching programmes. These include chairs in:

- Comparative Politics and Inequality Issues; Nijmegen School of Management Radboud University Nijmegen
- Gender and Diversity; Faculty of Social Sciences, Radboud University Nijmegen
- Culture and Inclusiveness; Faculty of Humanities, Radboud University Nijmegen,
- Cultural Memory, Gender and Diversity; endowed chair, funded by Opzij magazine, Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences, Maastricht University
- Diversity and Integration, Faculty of Social Sciences, VU Amsterdam
- Political History of Gender in the Netherlands: fixed-term professorship, Faculty of Humanities, University of Amsterdam
- Sociology of Gender and Sexuality; Faculty of Social and Behavioural Sciences, University of Amsterdam
- Gender Studies; Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences, Maastricht University
- Citizenship and Moral Diversity, University for Humanistic Studies

4. Required Qualifications

Research

- Has an in-depth knowledge of gender studies and feminist and contemporary philosophy, as well as inclusivity and diversity studies;
- Has demonstrated capacity to design an innovative line of research and is internationally recognized as an excellent senior researcher, as evidenced by regular publications in international peer-reviewed journals and books published by prestigious academic publishers;
- Has had demonstrable success in acquiring external research funding;
- Has demonstrable experience with international and interdisciplinary collaboration, preferably also with colleagues from outside the Humanities, such as involvement in interdisciplinary partnerships and publications in interdisciplinary journals;
- Has affinity with the research perspectives of the strategic themes of Utrecht University, in particular with Institutions for Open Societies;
- Has knowledge of and experience with collaborating in international consortia in the field of Gender Studies;
- Has successfully supervised young researchers, especially PhD students and is capable of implementing new research programmes that attract PhD candidates.

Teaching

- Has teaching experience at B.A., M.A. and Ph.D. levels;
- Is a very motivating and motivated lecturer, who makes use of new and innovative teaching methods;
- Is capable of developing new teaching initiatives in interdisciplinary contexts;
- Is capable of leading interdisciplinary education programmes;
- Is able and willing to teach in Dutch and in English. (Candidates whose command of Dutch is insufficient at the time of appointment are expected to acquire a working knowledge of the Dutch language in two years' time).

Collaboration

- Is able to engage in, and to further develop, collaborations and networks within the department, with other groups in the Faculty and the wider university, and within the interdisciplinary focus areas and strategic themes of the UU;
- Has a strong professional network both in academia and in the domain of applied research and professional work beyond academia;
- Has experience with, and actively looks for opportunities to collaborate with partners outside academia;
- Plays an active role in international networks.

Knowledge Utilization

- Has the capacity to translate research results into support and advice for non-academic stakeholders and organisations;
- Engages in various forms of outreach activities and public engagement;
- Has expertise and experience in showing the relevance of gender studies research

to the broader academic and non-academic world.

Management and administration

- Has demonstrable communicative and organisational skills required for this position;
- Is a team player with proven managerial and interpersonal skills in the collaboration with colleagues in the various partnerships in relation to research, education and public engagement, as well as at the departmental level;
- Is capable of leading and inspiring a medium-sized and diverse team of researchers and lecturers, in collaboration with other senior staff members;
- Proactively identifies and promotes developments critical to the cohesiveness and well-being of colleagues in the department, as well as in various partnerships in research, education and public engagement;
- Can play an active role in international organisations in the area of Gender Studies, such as AtGender, RINGS and InterGender;
- Is willing to fulfil a managerial and inspirational role in the Netherlands Research School of Gender Studies (NOG);
- Is willing to take a managerial and inspirational role in the Gender and Diversity Platform of Utrecht University's Strategic Theme Institutions for Open Societies (IOS)
- Is willing to share responsibility with other senior staff in the department for the development and implementation of a joint departmental vision for research, teaching, and public engagement.

Qualification system for teaching and research at UU

Utrecht University has a system of qualifying diplomas for teaching and research. This means that, in addition to a PhD in a relevant discipline, a senior qualifying diploma for teaching and a senior qualifying diploma for research are required. Candidates who transfer in from another university and do not possess these Dutch qualifications may submit a portfolio for teaching and another for research, on the basis of which the Dean of the Faculty may grant the necessary senior qualifying diplomas prior to the appointment.